would be enough to secure the room. 66 S Of course the superintendent said it would.

"Shall we send for your husband tomorrow?' he asked as he made out a envy. Nevertheless, that afternoon Frank some fortress or be sent to the penal receipt.

"Oh, no,' she said; 'he wouldn't come about this time to-morrow afternoon, And remember, he'll probably tell you Moscow. he's a detective. He's taken a notion that cab and drove away.

Next day a woman went into one of mounted the staircase rapidly. the largest department stores in town and buy a large bill of goods. She preferred Frank reached the topmost balcony the tower-climbing do not go we'l together. store and show her all the things that "Nobility," said the man, "you have Frank, determined to have a good look she wanted to buy. Of course the man-had a telegram from Atkarsk?" at one of his outer followers. to have one person take her through the ager was willing to accommodate so likely a customer, and one of his floor-managers was placed at her disposal. "Walk on, nobility," said the other. "But She went through the store like a small "He beneath is a spy. I pray you listen nificent." and seldom asked the price.

she asked to have the bill made out, and upon the manager again.

"I find I've bought a bigger bill than let your goods go out without sending on some trivial errand and never be seen than as a case of urgency, he unpacked some one along. I'd feel better about it again unless a friend happens to enter the notes he had taken of the work of if you could arrange to send one of your house detectives, so as to be sure that everything is all right till you get your . her k

"That proposition seemed right to the manager, so he called up one of the detectives and told him to go with the woman.

"Off they went, with the goods piled on top till the cabby could hardly see his way clear over them all. She talked and kept the detective interested so that he hardly had time to think how far it was; and he got his first surprise when he found that they were driving into the grounds of an insane asylum. He didn't say anything, however, and climbed out after her when the cab stopped at the door, wondering if she was the wife of one of the owners or one of the inmates.

But he got a jolt that nearly finished him when a couple of attendants came out and she said to them: 'Good-afternoon, I have brought my husband."

"As soon as he could get his breath again, he protested: 'Here! what does this mean? I'm not her husband. I'm a house detective for Blank,' and he gave the name of the department store. That's just what she figured on his saving. Hestuck his head into the noose just right.

Of course. We understand, said the attendants, thinking to humor him. And they started to lead him into the

"That woman's not my wife," he insisted 'I'm a detective, and I can prove to you if you'll let me get my cards He tried to resist them, but the more excited he got the closer they closed in about him. At last he saw that the only thing to do was to let them take him inside, and then when they got ready to listen explain about it.

" But while they were busy getting him into the house, the woman was busy geting away. She hastily entered the caland was driven off.

Nerve, you say? Why, a Chadwick or a Humbert may have made bigger hauls; but they weren't any cleverer rascals."

FIRE" OULS

eith you. I'll have to bring him myself, that weather-wise folk predicted an early secrecy and circumspection. We drive out often, and he won't suspect thaw, he climbed the three hundred and Great in order to have a good look at

he's a detective, and he's always telling with the same mania, and so, apparently, people that he's at work on some case was a stout person in furs, whom Frank labored into sight, or other.' With that she entered her had noticed in other parts of the Kremlin. Being young and active, Armstrong

> The workman too, a sinewy man, folworkman came close to him.

Sheer amazement caused Armstrong to

boy at the candy counter, who wants to me and believe that I am a friend. gloves and fancy underwear, all the best. It will be best if you remain in your who do not wish you well. I cannot it footed up to something over fifteen tell you more, because I do not know. I hundred dollars. She expressed surprise have been asked to give you this message, have been asked to give you this message. That is all, pobility."

I expected,' she said. 'You see, I'm world Armstrong would not have been on that terrific ascent. He was blown. traveling and I've got only about eight satisfied with this extraordinary speech, hundred dollars with me. Now, I'd like delivered behind his back, in a low, dis- odd events of the past few hours. It to have the goods packed so that I can tinct tone, as the two passed upward, indeed was a marvelous thing that he take them right in the cab with me out. He assuredly would have challenged the could not come within approximate disto where my husband is stopping, and man and demanded the reason of his tance of Prince Boris Melnikoff or his he'll pay cash for the whole amount, cryptic utterances. But in Russia, where surroundings without being plunged into Of course, I'm a stranger to you,' she men are shadowed by sinister influences, a maze of inexplicable circumstances. explained, 'and I don't expect you to where it is possible to leave one's house

was immensely surprised. Notwithstand- settlement of Saghalin, Frank knew that ing the cold, which was so intense his counsellor might have good cause for

Indeed, the workman swore roundly anything if I bring him. We'll be here forty-two steps of the Tower of Ivan the in a loud voice that all the views in Holy Russia were not worth so much trouble, oscow, and retraced his steps. Armstrong per-A man of the workman type was seized severed. On the top the wind was biting; but he bore it until the "spy

> "It is a fine view from here," said Frank cheerily, the two being the sole occupants of the elevated platform.

"It is," agreed the other, who seemed a kel to see the manager. She told him lowed close on his heels, while the fat to be in a bad temper, and not without that she was going abroad and wanted to man panted far in the rear. Before excuse, for adipose tissue, heavy furs and

"But the cold is very keen," went on

"St. Nicholas! you are right," said the

"But the spectacle! That is mag-

"Oh, yes, nobility."

some of every kind. She bought silks One comes to you by train from Saratoff. Each instant the stranger seemed to and laces and furs, silk stockings and Do not leave Moscow until he sees you. like less and less the exercise and the conversation which had been thrust on hotel. Should you go out, drive in a him. He turned away, and pretended "After about three hours of buying, closed kibitka. There are those here to take some interest in the glittering pinnacles and domes of the magnificent palace. At last Armstrong descended. His hired carriage was waiting. As he that it amounted to so much, and called You must not be seen speaking to me, drove off the stout individual emerged from the doorway. The man might be Now, in any other part of the wide a clever detective; but he had not counted

Frank now gave serious thought to the odd events of the past few hours. It

Rather as a relief to his troubled mind



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